

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT:

"WPA HEADLINES OF THE WEEK!" Good \_\_\_\_\_, friends.

This is another of YOUR personal programs, a quarter hour devoted to WPA news and information concerning YOUR community.

Each week at this time you are informed as to what is happening INSIDE WPA, and just how the work of this Federal agency affects YOUR community.

Today's presentation is in the form of a sketch based on the Americanization program of the WPA Adult Education Project.

Listen to one of the students as she tells how, when, and why SHE became interested in this particular phase of Adult Education work.....

MAGGIE: (SHE'S PLENTY IRISH AND A BIT TOO OLD TO BE JUST A COLLEN)

Maggie Sullivan was me name. I'm after saying was, because

I'm no longer a maiden. And if ye've any doubts about me

present status, I'll have ye know right now ye'll be

dealing with me legally wedded husband in no time a'tall.

Ah! But 'tis a fine man he is. And would ye believe it now

....Maggie Sullivan was for passing him up for a..... but

will ye be listening to the likes of me! Here I am with a

fine story to tell ye about how I became a citizen of this

grand and glorious country and all I'm doing is to be

a-wagging away with me no good tongue about me private

affairs. Still and all, I'll have ye know, me previous

life of seclusion is the exact cause of me going to the....

Aw! ITBs no story-teller I am. So let me be going back to

the fine day around noon time when I was on me way back to

me little dress-shop after a bite of lunch. In front of

the door stood....

O'TOOLE: (FADE IN QUICKLY) The top of the day to ye, Maggie!

MAGGIE: Out of me way, O'Toole! Out of me way! 'Tis plenty of work a-waiting for me in me dress-shop. And I'll have ye know I'm in no mood for the likes of you to be a-standing in front of the door, blocking me way in.

O'TOOLE: And I'll be after having you know, Maggie Sullivan, 'tis the law ye've elected yourself to be uncivil to. And on such a fine day! The pity of it now!

MAGGIE: Officer O'Toole! Will ye be after removing the majesty of the law from in front of me shop? Or will I be forced to tear that over-sized uniform from off ye good-for-nothing bones...shred by shred....and with me own hands, too!

O'TOOLE: (HURT) Aw, Maggie! Have ye never a kind word for me?

(CHANGE OF TONE) Ye know, I was a-standing here thinking. Me glorious Maggie is gone off up the street to partake of a well-earned lunch. And since it's such a wonderful day... with the sun a-shining and the sky all blue....I'll be a-waiting here until she comes back.

MAGGIE: And for what?

O'TOOLE: Well, first off...to be after realizing how inadequate nature is.

MAGGIE: What!

O'TOOLE: Oh, I'll still admit 'tis a beautiful day. But beside me Maggie! (SIGHS).

MAGGIE: Yes? I'm waiting, O'Toole, to hear ye tell a whopper this time. Or was ye sigh the best ye can do?

O'TOOLE: Aw, still ye tongue...'lest I tell the truth and name ye for the hag ye really are!

MAGGIE: Are ye after telling me...ye've run out of blarney, O'Toole?

O'TOOLE: No. But I'll not be after wasting it on the likes of you, Maggie Sullivan!

MAGGIE: Then out of me way, O'Toole! Out of me way!

O'TOOLE: Aw, Maggie! Maggie! We've been doing this for years. Ye know me story by heart! Must I be repeating it to ye again?

MAGGIE: Off with ye, now!

O'TOOLE: Not while I have the chance to save ye from yeself! O'Toole is still a gentleman!

MAGGIE: What nonsense are ye talking now? Maggie Sullivan can well take care of herself. And you know it, O'Toole!

O'TOOLE: Oh, is that so! Then why are ye after standing by while that Hardy J. Dillington jilts ye again and again?

MAGGIE: The nerve of ye! I'll have ye know that Mr. Dillington and Maggie Sullivan have set the day. And thistime the deed will be done, too!

O'TOOLE: Not while his mother is alive and kicking!

MAGGIE: For shame, O'Toole! Ye're a much too jealous man for yer own good!

O'TOOLE: Not jealous, Maggie! I'm a man of pity. And ye're much in need of me pity, too. For I know...as you know... that Mrs. Dillington is the wall between you and that milksop in trousers ye'd be a-marrying.

MAGGIE: O'Toole! Ye're speaking of me husband-to-be!

O'TOOLE: His mother has found excuses before to keep you from becoming her daughter-in-law. And she'll do it again.



MAGGIE: Ye're a prevaricator and a ruffian, O'Toole! Now, out of me way!

O'TOOLE: 'Tis a pleasure! Now, off with ye! Go on! Go in ye shop! Mrs. Dillington is a-waiting ye. And I could see by her eyes that she's cooked up a pretty scheme this time to keep ye a maiden. And the pity of it, too...when there're men like O'Toole around, waiting and willing to make an honest wife of ye!

MAGGIE: Out of me way, ye blue-clad bag of wind! And don't be a-hanging around me shop-door again! Or I'll be after sending for a cop!

O'TOOLE: And what do ye think I am? A tailor's dummy in uniform?

MAGGIE: 'Tis on me tongue to name ye, O'Toole! But if I spoke me mind, Saint Peter would mark me off his book and swallow the key for shame. So I'll not be a'cussing ye as I should and as ye deserve! (GOING AWAY FAST) So, good-day, O'Toole!

SOUND: DOOR OPENS & SLAMS.

MUSIC: UP BRIEFLY & FADE FOR FOLLOWING SCENE.

O'TOOLE: (FADE IN) (GENTLY) Now, Maggie! Now, Maggie! Dry yer tears. 'Tisn't like you to be a-weeping!

MAGGIE: But not a sound was I after making, doing it!

O'TOOLE: I know, I know, Maggie. Ye didn't make a sound with yer weeping. But what a mess of ye face the tears have made.

MAGGIE: Ye'd be a-weeping too....were ye in my place.

O'TOOLE: I take it, then, that Mrs. Dillington has found another excuse...as I was after a-warning ye she would...to keep her son to herself.

MAGGIE: O'Toole! That woman is a blight to her sex and a...a....  
Aw! She's worse than no good! And she's no mother either!

O'TOOLE: Hardy thinks she's his! And ye'll be knowing now that he obeys her!

MAGGIE: Ah! How I was a-wishing he'd become a man and cut himself loose from that woman's apron strings. First she wanted him to go back to college. He did it. And we didn't get married. Then we had to wait until he set himself up in business. Aw! 'Tis so silly to be a-waiting on the one ye love.

O'TOOLE: 'Tis, indeed, Maggie. But what is it this time?

MAGGIE: Just as the day was set and all...she suddenly remembers  
I'm not a citizen of this country. And now I ask you...  
what's that got to do with it!?!?

O'TOOLE: (STARTLED) Oh, but Maggie! But that's... 'Tis disgraceful  
I thought you...And all these years, too. For shame, Maggie

MAGGIE: What's the matter with ye, O'Toole! Are ye taking sides  
with that woman?

O'TOOLE: Not a-tall, Maggie, for she's twisted the truth to fit her  
own evil purposes.

MAGGIE: Indeed, and ye ARE a gentleman, O'Toole. Heaven forgive me  
for not knowing it 'till now!

O'TOOLE: Ah, Maggie! And besides that and loving ye, I'm yer friend.  
Yer friend!

MAGGIE: Yes?

O'TOOLE: Ye really ought to be a citizen, Maggie. In fact, Heaven  
forgive you for neglecting to take yer papers out long ago!



MAGGIE: But why, O'Toole? Why? What's the advantage?

O'TOOLE: So! 'Tis an advantage ye want! Isn't it enough to walk along the street and look about ye and see all the wonders of this great land and say to yerself: "This is my land! My very own! And in it I'm free! In it I can earn a living and be judged according to my own talent and individual disposition!"

MAGGIE: Mrs. Dillington is a citizen. And she isn't judging Maggie Sullivan by any such measures, I'll have ye know!

O'TOOLE: (STERNLY) Maggie Sullivan! Ye need enlightenment. And that, so help me, in big doses!

MAGGIE: Aw, go on with ye, now! Doses! Do I look as if I'm sick?

O'TOOLE: By all that's holy! Ye ARE sick! And I'll not be contaminated by ye disease either! So ye'll be fetching yer bonnet. Go on, get it!

MAGGIE: And for what?

O'TOOLE: 'Tis to a school ye're going, Maggie Sullivan.

MAGGIE: WHAT!

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O'TOOLE: Yes, and ye'll be thanking me in no time a-tall for having dragged ye there! Ye need more sense, Maggie Sullivan. First so ye can appreciate the land where ye've earned yo living for so lon . And second....well, an improved mind might improve ye taste in men. So's ye'd be able to pick a good husband!

MAGGIE: For instance?

O'TOOLE: The O'Toole's can't be beat, Maggie. Not when women are in need of fine and ready husbands.

MAGGIE: I'll not be going to a school! Do ye hear, O'Toole!? I'll not be going! (FADE) I'll not be going!

MUSIC: UP BRIEFLY & FADE FOR NEXT SCENE.

O'TOOLE: (FADE IN) It's your turn next, Maggie! So step up to the desk and make yer desires known to the lady!

MAGGIE: Aw! All right, but I still think it's silly!

TEACHER: Yes? May I help you?

MAGGIE: Maybe. What kind of a place is this, anyhow?

TEACHER: Well, it might be called many things.

MAGGIE: If O'Toole here recommends it...so I was after thinking.

TEACH: Oh, I don't know about that. Officer O'Toole has been this school's very good friend in the past.

MAGGIE: Well, no one will ever be able to say that Maggie Sullivan hasn't an open mind. So...talk away, lady, and tell me what ye're selling.

TEACH: Hmm-mm. I've a better idea. (CHANGE OF TONE) Wouldn't you like to have me show you our school and the things our students and teachers are trying to do here?

MAGGIE: Aw, very well. (FADE) What can I lose...just by looking!

MUSIC: UP BRIEFLY & FADE FOR NEXT SCENE.

MAGGIE: (FADE IN) Well, if it isn't Officer O'Toole!

O'TOOLE: The same.

MAGGIE: And where have you been these many months?

O'TOOLE: Never mind that. (LAUGHING) Are you still in school, Maggie?

MAGGIE: I'll be after telling you...Maggie Sullivan hasn't missed a night since the time you, yourself, took me there.

O'TOOLE: And what do you think of it, Maggie?

MAGGIE: O'Toole! (EARNESTLY) Have you ever been shut up in a room, a room all dank and dark, and then have a window flung open? A window, all clean and big so's you could really see what the world was like!?

O'TOOLE: So you like the school, Maggie!

MAGGIE: I do indeed!

O'TOOLE: Why, Maggie? Why?

MAGGIE: Remember, O'Toole, what you said to me about being sick?

O'TOOLE: Yes.

MAGGIE: Well, I was sick. And there must be thousands of people around here with the same disease. You see, I came to this country when I was a little girl. The world was at peace. The living here was good. Easy to make. And I just...well, just LIVED.

O'TOOLE: You've had plenty of company, Maggie. Others have come to this country and done what you did.

MAGGIE: I know. And the pity of it is...now that there's a place where they can go and improve themselves in more ways than one...but few are after knowing where and how!

O'TOOLE: 'Tis the truth ye speak, Maggie!

MAGGIE: But Maggie Sullivan is taking good care not to have one young lady make the mistake I made!

O'TOOLE: Huh? What on earth are ye talking about?

MAGGIE: That girl ye see walking toward us. She's just come here from Europe. And I'm taking her with me to...(CALLING)  
The top of the evening to ye, Olga!

OLGA: (COMING TO MIKE) Okay! Okay! Here I!

MAGGIE: (ASIDE) See what I mean, O'Toole? A foreigner! (TO OLGA)  
Meet Officer O'Toole, Olga!

OLGA: Hmmmn! Big and nice!

O'TOOLE: But she ain't dumb! And when did you get your final papers, Maggie? The top of the ev'ing, Olga!

MAGGIE: Not yet! But soon, O'Toole!

O'TOOLE: Fine!



OLGA: Now you tell Olga of nice place? What you call it....  
school?

MAGGIE: Sure! Come on, O'Toole. Walk along with us until we get  
where we're going.

O'TOOLE: 'Tis a pleasure. The moon is high and big and bright. The  
sky is blue and clear. But when I look at you and Olga!  
(SIGHS)

MAGGIE: Save the blarney, O'Toole!

OLGA: What is this place, Maggeee?

MAGGIE: Well, it's a WPA Adult Education School.

OLGA: They make me citizen there?

MAGGIE: No. But they'll teach you how to become a citizen. And a  
good one, too.

OLGA: Okay!

MAGGIE: And they'll help you to get rid of that "okay".

OLGA: How?

MAGGIE: By teaching you how to speak, read and write English.

OLGA: Olga like that. But....(SIGHS WITH REGRET)

MAGGIE: And as I was after telling you...they'll teach you how to become a citizen. The courses in Americanization are swell!

O'TOOLE: You bet they are!

MAGGIE: They have to be...since they're very closely sponsored and guided by the local boards of education.

OLGA: Will school get Olga job?

MAGGIE: No. But it will help prepare you for a job.

OLGA: How?

MAGGIE: Well, when you learn a little English...you can take stenography if you want to. Anyhow, there're plenty of commercial and vocational courses you can take.

OLGA: Okay! Okay! Who teach me that?

MAGGIE: Nice people, Olga. And every one of 'em is qualified to do the work, too.

OLGA: Only people from Old Country go to school?

MAGGIE: No. Anybody can be after going. And no matter what you need, the WPA Adult Education School has it. But about the best thing they have to give, Olga, is a good idea of what Democracy is.

OLGA: Olga think she like to learn about Democracy!

MAGGIE: Well, this school is the place then.

OLGA: Tell me more.

MAGGIE: Sure'n 'tis a pleasure! To me, the WPA Adult Education School is after being a living symbol of democracy itself. For qualified teachers....out of work....it means a place to earn their daily bread. It offers the key to citizenship to people like you and me, Olga. It gives this country's native sons and daughters a chance to improve their minds and hands so that they may get better jobs. It brings culture to the people who need it most. And above all....I'm after telling you 'tis a sound place to learn how to live with your fellow man.

OLGA: Olga Like that. But...(WOEFULLY)

MAGGIE: But WHAT?

OLGA: Olga have very little money.

MAGGIE: Aw, go on with ye, now! The WPA Adult Education School is free!

O'TOOLE: By the way, Maggie....

MAGGIE: I was after wondering, Maggie Sullivan, what new thing the mother of Hardy J. Dillington will be thinking up, to keep ye from becoming her daughter-in-law, when ye've become a citizen of this grand and glorious land?

MAGGIE: Who cares, O'Toole?

O'TOOLE: I was after thinking...Huh?

MAGGIE: Jilting me, are you?

O'TOOLE: Are ye crazy, Maggie Sullivan?

MAGGIE: Sure'n 'tis a pleasant feeling! But just the same, I'm after thinking I'd like to be Mrs. O'Toole!

O'TOOLE: Ah! But 'tis a beautiful night. The sky is clear and blue! The moon is big and round and bright! But in all this night's glory!.....'Tis as nothing beside me Maggie!

MAGGIE: Save ye blarney, O'Toole, for the man in the marriage license bureau. Here's the school, Olga. Just go right in that door. The top of the evening to ye, O'Toole. And thanks to ye and all the rest of ye full-fledged citizens for the WPA and its Adult Education School!

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT:

You have just heard WPA HEADLINES OF THE WEEK!, another in the series of weekly broadcasts devoted to the work WPA is doing in YOUR community.

Friends, if you are interested in knowing more about WPA in the field of Adult Education....write to Robert W. Allan at 1060 Broad Street in Newark, New Jersey.

Besides the valuable work being done in the Americanization and Literacy classes, the WPA Education Program is offering instruction in many mechanical and vocational courses enabling men and women to qualify for national defense jobs.

Today's sketch was written by Hughes Allison of the New Jersey Writers' Project.

"WPA HEADLINES OF THE WEEK" will be presented again at this same time next \_\_\_\_\_.